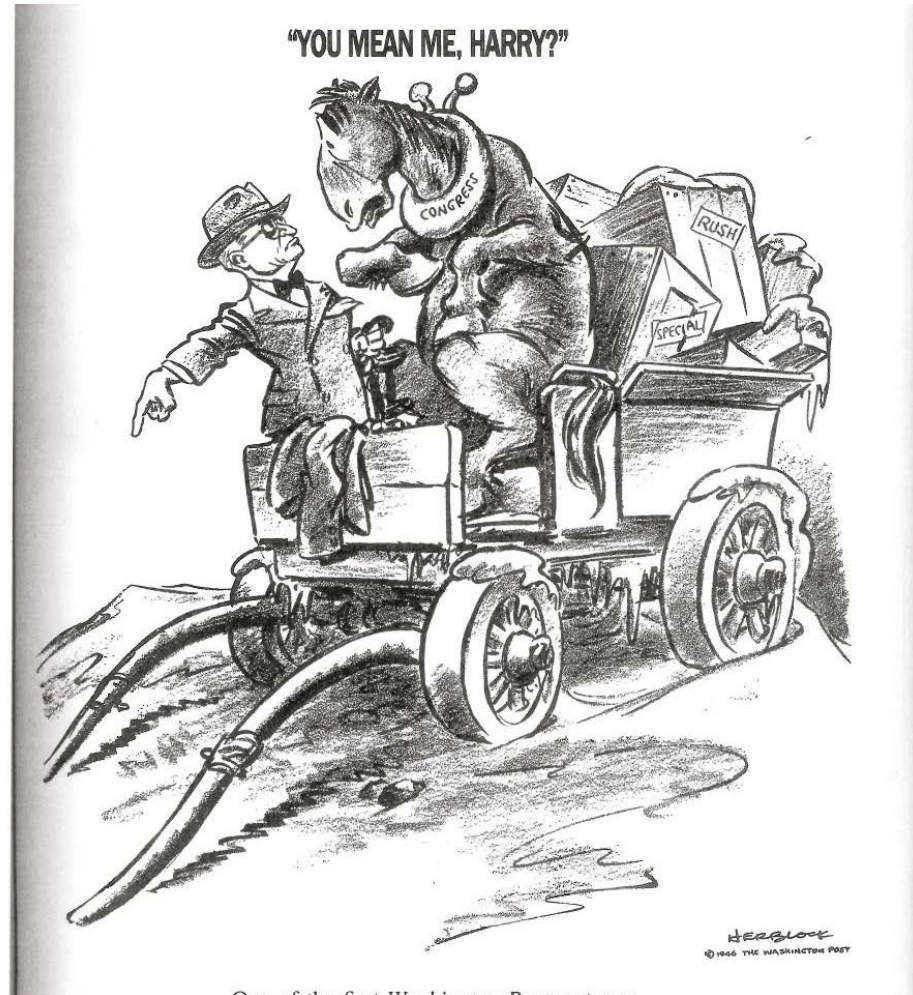


Communicating with the Congress: For Better, For Worse, For Richer, For Poorer, To Prevent Sickness and Improve Health

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National Institute of Environmental Health
Sciences

7 March 2012



Agency Activities Require:

- A law authorizing the activity
- A law providing money to pay for it

Committees with Responsibility for NIEHS

- **Authorizing**
 - House Energy & Commerce
 - Senate Help, Education, Labor & Pensions
- **Appropriating**
 - House/Senate Labor, HHS, ED
 - House/Senate Interior, Environment
 - House/Senate Energy & Water

Working with Congress

- Have a positive attitude about politics
- Appreciate the need for compromise and tradeoffs
- Keep the congressional calendar in mind
- Perform good intelligence gathering in advance
- Keep the message simple—no alphabet soup or technical jargon

Working with Congress

- Committee staff are likely to be older and more legislation oriented and technically informed
- Personal staff are likely to be younger and more member-district-state oriented
- Don't forget the office back home
- Don't underestimate the role of staff

In the meeting

- Be focused and clear about what is needed
- Be concise
- Get your request on table right away
- Talk about science as a source of new information that can contribute to everyone's well-being, i.e., our health, happiness, and prosperity
- Use concrete examples of the value of research
- Invite member/staff to visit

Politics is Important to Science & Technology

Science & Technology are important to Politics

Get involved!